

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 7:

Q3 The air pressure in actuators in the form of flexible tubes 36 on pressure body 14 produces a nip pressure against the paper web P in gap G. This seals the air pressure in chamber 20 against modification of the air pressure from an air source 38 to tubes 36 to increase, decrease or maintain the desired nip load and corresponding gap G. Gap G is measured by the pressure on transducer 22 which in turn signals controller 32 to control the air pressure from air source 38, acting in tubes 36.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 20:

Q4 Control of the measured gap or nip at corresponding cross-machine locations along the length of the roll faces is accomplished by the controller signaling actuators in the form of individual shoes 54a .. 54i via lines 39a-39i within controlled deflection roll 44 to provide increased or decreased shoe actuation pressure against inside surface 56 of hollow cylindrical roll shell 52 of controlled deflection roll 44. This action adjusts gap G at one or more locations along the longitudinal working length of the nipped rolls 44, 46, as desired, according to the corresponding gap measurements. Such control of the measurement of gap G also affords corresponding control of the nip load against the composite web W and paper web P to provide the stated advantages as well as other advantages readily discernable by those skilled in the art.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 6:

Q5 Another embodiment is shown in Figs. 2 and 3. In this embodiment, the frame includes the center shaft 42 of a so-called controlled deflection roll 44 which serves as the pressure roll in a nipped-roll couple. A support roll 46 forms a gap G with roll 44 when rolls 44, 46 are engaged

along a nip line of contact N as shown in Fig. 2. Support roll 46 has a plurality of sensors in the form of transducers 22a...22e mounted in its surface. Both rolls 44, 46 have journals 48, 50, respectively, about which the hollow, cylindrical roll shell 52 of the controlled deflection roll, and support roll 16 rotate.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19:

Seals 18, 18a define, with the pressure body 14 (including the lateral sides thereof) and composite web W, a pressure chamber 20. The composite web W is formed of a flexible belt B, the flexible felt F with a nascent paper web P disposed in between. The belt B is positioned to be between the paper web P and curved surfaces 19, 19a of the seals to prevent abrasion between the seal surfaces and the paper web as the composite web W passes through the nip N1, N2 between each respective seal 18, 18A. An optional water shower 6 provides lubrication between belt B and the curved surface of seals 18 and 18A. In an alternative embodiment the positions of felt F and belt B are transposed.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as shown in the Request for Approval of Drawing Changes attached herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 for original claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17: